

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 08 JUN 2005

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From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/000197

International filing date (day/month/year)
21.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
A01G9/14, E04D3/06, E04H4/08

Applicant
BURNDEN HOLDINGS (UK) LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/000197

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/000197

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-26
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-26
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-26
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: GB-A-2 378 478 (DENNIS ANTHONY JONES; ASPECT MANAGEMENT LIMITED) 12 February 2003 (2003-02-12)
- D2: US-A-6 041 563 (VOLLERS ET AL) 28 March 2000 (2000-03-28)
- D3: GB-A-1 193 377 (KARL SCHMIDT GMBH.) 28 May 1970 (1970-05-28).

5.1 Independent Claim 1.

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses:

- a glazing component connector comprising a first part (10) and a second part (12 or 14), the first part comprising a head (50) for reception by a complementary channel (52), from which head extends a shank (between 50 and 40) for enabling connection to another glazing component.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of D1 in that the connector further comprises a locking clip for locating about the head thereby to secure the first part to the channel.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as to provide a more secure connection.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

Document D3 discloses a locking clip ("shell" 1) for locating about a head (5) thereby to secure a "first part" to a socket (as opposed to a channel). The purpose of this clip is,

however, essentially to take up clearance caused by wear when employed in a mechanical device. There is no indication for the person skilled in the art to incorporate such a clip in the device according to D1.

5.2 Independent Claim 19.

Independent claim 19 is directed to a method of connection of a first glazing component to a second glazing component including the provision of a glazing component connector according to, among others, claim 1. Therefore the subject-matter of claim 19 also conforms to the requirements of Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

5.3 Dependent Claims 2-18 and 20-26.

Claims 2-18 and 20-26 are dependent on claims 1 and 19 respectively, and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

7.1 Prior Art.

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, documents D1-D3 have not been identified in the description.

7.2 Claims in Two-Part Form.

The independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT.

7.3 Reference Signs in Claims.

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

Clarity.

The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims 1,12,16,19 and 24 are not clear for the following reasons.

8.1 Claim 1.

The expression "to another glazing component" is not clear, as a "first" glazing component has not been mentioned.

8.2 Claim 12.

It is not clear whether the claimed "first glazing component" comprises the "channel" (line 18), the "glazing component connector" (line 19) and the "second glazing component" (line 23).

8.3 Claim 16.

It is unclear how the angle of the first glazing component relative to the second glazing component can be varied by pivotal movement of the connector, since, according to claim 12, the second glazing component is connected to the first glazing component by the first part of the connector (ie. not via the head/channel connection.).

8.4 Claim 19.

It is not clear how the second glazing component is connected to the first glazing component "using the shank" (line 31).

8.5 Claim 25.

The term "the glazing clip" lacks an antecedent.

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